

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 MCE-00 ACDA-12 /061 W
-----017064 041339Z /64
R 040902Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ4/7//
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0864
SECDEF WASHDC//ISA(SA)/DSAA//
DA WASHDC
CDR MIRCOM REDSTONE ARSENAL//DRSMI-X/DRCPM-KMS//
CDR USASAC ALEX VA//DRSAC-WA/IR//

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUWAIT 2679

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, KU
SUBJ: VISIT OF MG RACHMELER TO KUWAIT

REFS: A. CDR DARCOM MSG 171305Z MAR 78
B. USCINCEUR MSG 141704Z APR 78 (NOTAL)
C. CDR MIRCOM MSG 192245Z APR 78 (NOTAL)

1. MAJOR GENERAL LOUIS RACHMELER COMMANDING GENERAL, ARMY
MISSILE READINESS COMMAND (MIRCOM) REDSTONE ARSENAL VISITED
KUWAIT DURING THE PERIOD 28-30 APR 78. KUWAIT VISIT WAS IN
CONJUNCTION WITH VISITS TO JORDAN AND IRAN TO OBSERVE AND
DISCUSS THE STATUS OF THE VARIOUS I-HAWK PROGRAMS WITH EMBASSY
AND HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

2. WHILE IN KUWAIT, MG RACHMELER MET WITH SENIOR OFFICERS OF
THE KUWAIT ARMED FORCES (KAF), INCLUDING THE CHIEF OF STAFF
AND THE COMMANDER OF THE AIR FORCE/AIR DEFENSE FORCE. HE WAS
ACCOMPANIED BY THE AMBASSADOR IN A CALL ON MINISTER OF DEFENSE
SHAIKH SALEM SABAH APRIL 29. ALSO, MORE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS
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AND VISITS TO I-HAWK FACILITIES WERE CONDUCTED WITH OTHER OFFICERS
OF THE KUWAIT AIR DEFENSE FORCE AND U.S. PERSONNEL.

3. DURING THEIR MEETING WITH THE MINISTER, THE LATTER SUGGESTED
MORE FREQUENT VISITS BY MIRCOM TO ASSESS THE PROGRESS AND
STATE OF READINESS OF THE KUWAIT I-HAWK BATTERIES WOULD BE
WELCOME. MG RACHMELER MADE A NUMBER OF POINTS (SUMMARIZED BELOW)

WHICH HE SUBSEQUENTLY INCORPORATED IN A LETTER TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE.

3. SUMMARY OF ABOVE MENTIONED LETTER DATED APRIL 30 IS PROVIDED BELOW:

A. MG RACHMELER WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH THE MOTIVATION AND PROFESSIONALISM DISPLAYED BY THE YOUNG OFFICERS WHO RECENTLY COMPLETED I-HAWK TRAINING. HE RECOMMENDED THAT FULL ADVANTAGE BE TAKEN OF THEIR TRAINING AND KNOWLEDGE.

B. HE RECOMMENDED THAT A HIGH PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO FLESHING OUT THE BATTERY UNITS WITH PERSONNEL, IN ADDITION TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN I-HAWK TRAINED, WHO ARE REQUIRED TO MAKE SUCH UNITS SELF-SUFFICIENT; EG, DRIVERS, COOKS, CLERKS ETC.

C. HE RECOMMENDED THAT THE I-HAWK ORGANIZATION COMMAND STRUCTURE BE FINALIZED AND PROMULGATED.

D. HE RECOMMENDED THAT PLANS FOR IN-COUNTRY REPLACEMENT TRAINING BE FINALIZED AND ACTION BE TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE TRAINING PLAN.

E. HE OBSERVED THAT MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. THE INITIAL TRAINING PROGRAM HAS BEEN AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS. HE BELIEVES WE CAN SEE OUR OBJECTIVES CLEARLY AND IS CONFIDENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT BY WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER, SUCCESS CAN BE ACHIEVED.

4. EMBASSY COMMENTS. FROM ALL INDICATIONS THE KUWAITIS WERE HIGHLY APPRECIATIVE OF MG RACHMELER'S VIST AND CONSULTATIONS. THE KUWAITIS ARE THE FIRST TO ADMIT THAT THEIR PROBLEMS CENTER AROUND MANPOWER DEFICIENCIES. WITH THE RECENT IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION, WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE MANPOWER SITUATION WILL BE GREATLY IMPROVED WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR. IT WILL OBVIOUSLY DEPEND UPON THE SUCCESS OF THIS PROGRAM.

MAESTRONE

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